tions and passports issued over the last three years is indicated below:—

Fresh Passport Applications

Year	Receipt	Issued
RPO Chandigarh		
1987 . . .	62551	61025
1988 . . .	80384	55290
1989 . . .	90765	74594
RPO Jalandhar		
1987 . . .	57249	35445
1988 . . .	74881	70492
1989 . . .	100548	8710 2

The data regarding number of passport applications rejected and pending is being obtained.

(b) Reasons for pendency are:—

(i) delay in receipt of Police/CID reports; and

(ii) submission of incomplete information by applicants.

(c) Data is being obtained.

(d) Yes, Sir. Every effort is being made to reduce the time lag in issue of passports. The following special steps have already been initiated in this regard:

(i) Passport applications are scrutinized at counters and incomplete applications are returned to applicants on the spot, pointing out the deficiencies. Incomplete applications received by post are returned the same day, pointing out the deficiencies.

(ii) Despatch of the passport applications to the Police/CID authorities within 24 hours of their receipt.

(iii) Periodical reminders to the Police/CID authorities and constant liaison with these authorities at various levels.

(iv) Simplification and rationalization of passport procedures.

(v) Deployment of additional temporary staff and provision of special incentives to staff working on Sundays and closed holidays.

(vi) Despatch of passports to applicants within 5 working days of the receipt of Police Reports/clearance from the concerned authorities.

(vii) The progress of disposal of passport applications is monitored weekly.

Tripartite talks on Bodo Issue

85. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tripartite talks on Bodo issue in Assam were held on January 11, 1990 as scheduled; and

(b) if so, what specific issues were discussed during the talks; the details of the outcome thereof and the action taken so far in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During these talks grievances putforth by All Bodo Students' Union, including a demand for a separate State were discussed and it was agreed to hold further talk to find an amicable solution to the problems of Bodos. Subsequently 2 more rounds of tripartite discussions have been held on 9th March, 1990 and 18th April, 1990. As a result, a Committee comprising representatives from All Bodo Students' Union/Bodo Peoples' Action Committee, Government of Assam and

Government of India is being set up. This Committee would be making recommendations suggesting suitable solutions to the ethno-political and development problems of Bodos and other Plains Tribals in Assam within the framework of the Constitution of India and will work out the details of an administrative, political and legal arrangement for devolution of powers acceptable to all sections of people living in the State. The Committee is to submit its report in the next round of talks scheduled to be held on 2-7-1990.

Advisory Committees of Radio Stations/Doordarshan Kendras

86. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Radio Stations/Doordarshan Kendras which are having Advisory Committees and the number of those which are without such Committees; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to appoint these Committees to all the Stations; and what are the guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) As per the guidelines, All India Radio stations which originate programmes for at least 5-1/2 hours per day and Doordarshan Kendras having full-fledged production facilities are eligible to have Programme Advisory Committees. According to this, 72 All India Radio stations and 14 Doordarshan Kendras are eligible to have Programme Advisory Committees. The Programme Advisory Committees at these stations/kendras are being constituted/reconstituted.

Permission to Postal Department to take Loans from Postal Life Insurance Fund

87. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to permit the Postal Department to take loans from the Postal Life Insurance Fund for commercial activities like construction of buildings to boost the department revenue; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) A proposal has been taken up for examination to allow the Department of Posts to obtain loans from the Postal Life Insurance Fund for financing building projects of a commercial nature which would enable the Department to earn additional revenue. The proposal is in its initial stage of examination.

Setting up of a Major Telecommunication Training Institute near Madras

88. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to set up a major telecommunication training institute in Maraimalai Nagar near Madras; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The Regional Telecom Training Centre, Madras, functioning at present in a rented building is proposed to be shifted to Maraimalai Nagar near Madras.